

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 01874 241414Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1874

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINR, CG
SUBJECT: MOBUTU APPOINTS SIX ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE POLITICAL
BUREAU

REF: (A) 77 KINSHASA A-137 (B) 77 KINSHASA 11296 (C) KINSHASA 745

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 22, PRESIDENT MOBUTU ISSUED AN
ORDINANCE ADDING SIX MEMBERS TO THE THIRTY-MEMBER POLITICAL BUREAU.
TWO OF THE NEW MEMBERS WERE CANDIDATES IN LAST NOVEMBER'S POLITICAL
BUREAU ELECTIONS BUT REPORTEDLY WERE DEPRIVED OF VICTORY BY
TAMPERING WITH BALLOTING RESULTS. ALSO INCLUDED AMONG THE SIX
NEW MEMBERS IS UMBA-DI-LUTETE, COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
END SUMMARY

2. THE SIX NEW POLITICAL COMMISSIONERS WHOM PRESIDENT MOBUTU
APPOINTED ON FEBRUARY 22 ARE MULONGO MISHA, KAMBERE MULEMBA NGULU,
GAMBEMBO FUMU WA UTADI, KITHIMA-BIN-RAMAZANI, UMBA-DI-LUTETE, AND
KUPA MANDUNGALA. THEY ARE ADDED TO THE EIGHTEEN ELECTED AND TWELVE
NOMINATED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU WHO WERE CONFIRMED IN
OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 22, 1977 (REF A).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 01874 241414Z

3. MULONGO MISHA, HALF LUBA FROM NORTH SHABA AND HALF EUROPEAN,
IS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE TWO REAL VICTORS IN
LAST FALL'S POLITICAL BUREAU ELECTIONS IN SHABA (REF B). AN
ENGINEER, HE PROBABLY SPENT THE MOST MONEY OF ALL SHABAN CANDIDATES
DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

4. KAMBERE MULEMBA NGULU WAS THE FAVORED CANDIDATE OF THE NANDI,

KIVU'S MOST POPULOUS AND ECONOMICALLY DOMINANT TRIBE. HE WAS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE THE MOST LIKELY WINNER IN THE POLITICAL BUREAU ELECTIONS IN THAT REGION (REF B).

5. GAMBEMBO FUMU WA UTADI HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT THE ZAIRIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAZA). HE WAS FIRST APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE ZAIRIAN POLITICAL BUREAU IN 1974 WHEN HE WAS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CULTURE AND PRESS MATTERS. HOLDER OF A PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG, HE IS FROM BANDUNDU. HE WAS DROPPED FROM THE POLITICAL BUREAU IN 1977.

6. KITHIMA-BIN-RAMAZANI BEGAN HIS PUBLIC CAREER IN THE TRADE UNION FIELD BACK IN 1959. A BROTHER-IN-LAW OF FORMER PREMIER CYRILLE ADOULA, HE WAS BORN IN 1924 IN KISANGANI. HE HAS SERVED IN SUCH POSITIONS AS MINISTER OF LABOR, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU AT VARIOUS TIMES FROM 1967 THROUGH 1975.

7. BEFORE UMBA-DI-LUTETE BECAME COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE WAS ZAIRE'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AND STILL EARLIER A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU. FULL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON.

8. KUPA MANDUNGALA, FROM HAUT ZAIRE, IS A FORMER REGIONAL GOVERNOR AND DEPUTY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINSHA 01874 241414Z

9. COMMENT: PRESIDENT MOBUTU RECENTLY REVISED THE CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THEN CURRENT PRACTICE (REF C). THE REVISED DOCUMENT PROVIDES FOR A THIRTY-MEMBER POLITICAL BUREAU CONSISTING OF EIGHTEEN ELECTED AND TWELVE NOMINATED MEMBERS. SINCE THE NEW CONSTITUTION ALSO GIVES MOBUTU (AS PRESIDENT-FOUNDER) A FREE HAND IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE POLITICAL BUREAU, THE NEW BALANCE OF EIGHTEEN ELECTED AND EIGHTEEN NOMINATED POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBERS DOES NOT VIOLATE THE LETTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. THE FACT THAT HE HAS CHOSEN TO APPOINT TWO INDIVIDUALS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO HAVE BEEN CHEATED OF ELECTORAL VICTORY BY GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE WOULD SEEM TO BE DESIGNED TO NEUTRALIZE CRITICISM AND BUTTRESS SUPPORT FOR HIS REGIME.
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